

EUROPEAN ECONOMY

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES • DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Supplement C — No 1 — March 1983

Consumer survey results

This issue: revised historical series

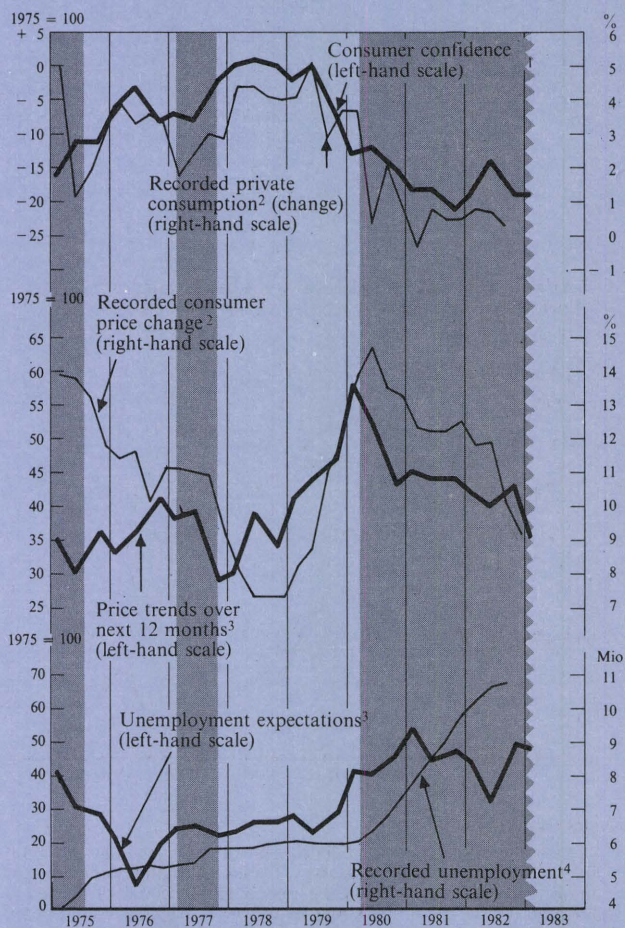
Less pessimism on future economic trends. — Consumers in the European Community have adopted a somewhat less pessimistic view of the economic and financial situation and have reduced substantially their expectations of inflation. Moreover, they expect no further deterioration in the trend of unemployment. At the same time, however, consumers have adopted a less positive attitude to the purchase of major durable goods, resulting in no change in the consumer confidence index (Graph 1). These trends emerge from the surveys of consumers carried out for the Commission in January 1983.

Lower inflationary expectations. — The past 12 months have witnessed a clear diminution of perceived inflation on the part of European consumers, with the indicator of opinion on this subject now being at a lower level than at any time since early 1979. Consumers in all Member States except for Belgium and France felt in January that inflation rates had fallen since October 1982. Although there was some rise in January in the percentage of French consumers who felt that inflation rates were increasing, this should be seen against the sharp fall in perceived inflation which occurred in France (no doubt influenced by the price freeze) during 1982.

Inflationary expectations have also fallen sharply. This reflects consumers' views in all countries except Ireland, where inflationary expectations were unchanged in January, and the United Kingdom, where there was a marked rise from the low October level.

Slight improvement in views on the economic outlook. — Consumers' views in January about general economic trends, both past and future, were slightly less pessimistic than in October. With respect to economic developments over the past year, consumers in Denmark, France, Ireland and the Netherlands gave somewhat better assessments than in October, while judgements in Belgium and the United Kingdom were less favourable. Consumers' views on economic prospects over the next 12 months have improved substantially in Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands but became noticeably more pessimistic in Belgium and the United Kingdom. These varying trends in consumer opinion should, of course, be seen in the context of the different degrees of pessimism which prevail in each country. Thus, although British public opinion has in recent months taken a more pessimistic view of future economic trends, it is still on balance considerably less pessimistic than in the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy. It is, however, in Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands that public opinion (despite recent improvements in the latter two cases) takes the gloomiest view of economic prospects.

GRAPH 1: Survey results and objective economic indicators. — European Community total



Shaded areas indicate periods of recession. The timing of the end of the latest recession is yet to be determined.

For notes, see overleaf, column 1.

Sources: European Community consumer survey and Eurostat.

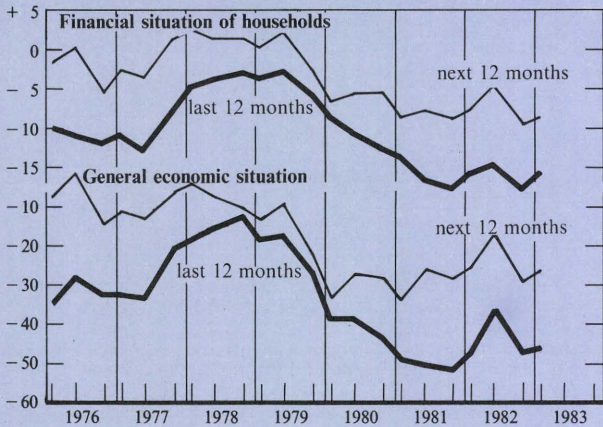
Consumers' views on the outlook for unemployment in the Community as a whole showed little change from October. Assessments of the expected trend in unemployment deteriorated between October and January in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. However, consumers expect unemployment to become less acute in France, particularly, and also in the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy. It is noteworthy that preoccupation with deteriorating labour market trends is much more accentuated in the Netherlands than elsewhere in the Community, although despite some recent positive trends the balance of opinion is everywhere clearly negative on this issue.

Households' financial situations. — Consumers' personal financial conditions were considered to have improved marginally at Community level in January, as compared to October. This reflected more favourable views in France, Ireland and the United Kingdom. With respect to the possibility of better household financial conditions emerging in 1983, only in France has there been a significant improvement.

Consumer confidence indicator. — The consumer confidence indicator, whose composition and development over time is similar to the composite index previously published in this series of supplements to 'European Economy' (see 'Note to readers' below), was unchanged for the Community as a whole in January, by comparison with October. Small improvements in this indicator were recorded in January in Denmark (by 4 points), in the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands (each by 3 points), while consumer confidence was weaker in Belgium (by 3 points) and in Italy (by 2 points). There was little change in France or the United Kingdom. On a cross-country comparison, consumer sentiment, as measured by this indicator, is strongest in the latter two countries, and weakest in Ireland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

15 March 1983

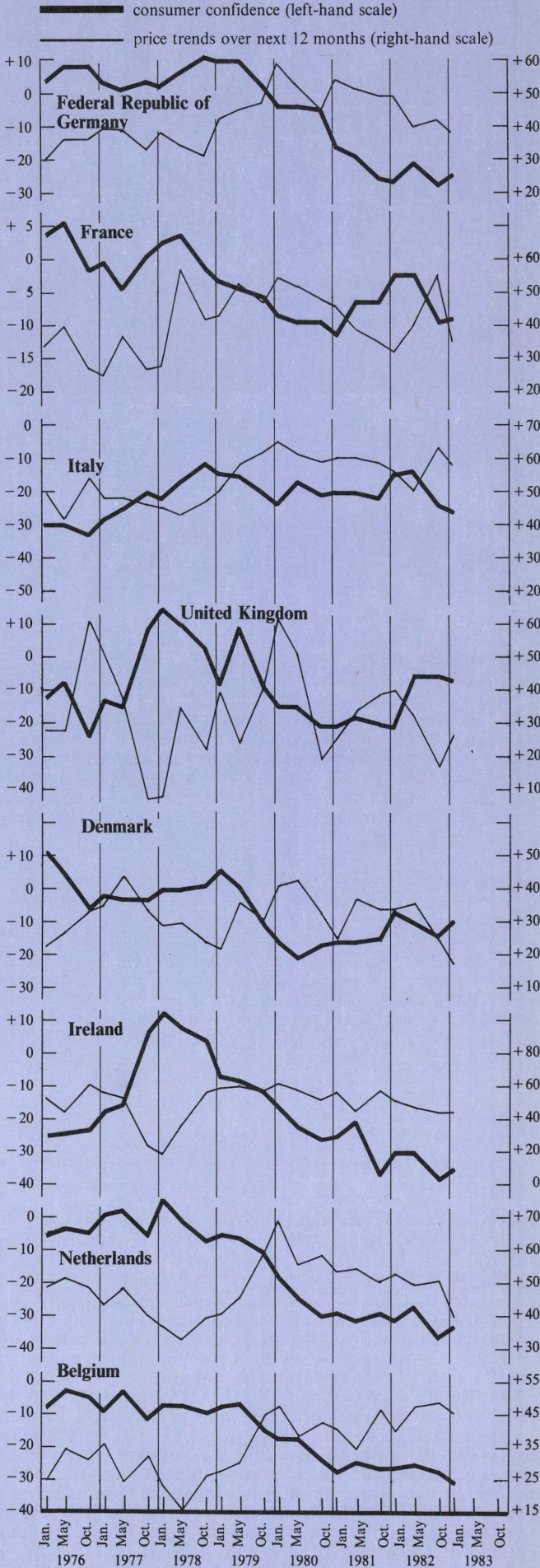
GRAPH 2: Consumers' views on past versus future developments — European Community total (Index 1975 = 100)



Notes on graphs

- 1 The climate of consumer confidence is measured by an index based on five questions in the consumer survey. These are the questions relating to the general economic situation, the household financial situation and to major purchases of durable goods (see Table on pages 3 and 4 for data and notes).
- 2 Quarterly data - percentage change on corresponding quarter of preceding year.
- 3 See Table on pages 3 and 4 for data and notes.
- 4 Quarterly data - seasonally adjusted.

GRAPH 3: Climate of consumer confidence¹ and opinion on price trends over the next 12 months³ (Index 1975 = 100)



Source: European Community consumer survey.

TABLE (continued): Consumer opinion on economic and financial conditions

		1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1972		1973			1974			
									May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.
MAJOR PURCHASES	B	48	46	46	38	23	15	13	29	40	50	57	58	51	56	40	37
	DK	46	43	41	42	21	10	16	:	:	:	:	:	19	38	6	9
	D	26	24	31	25	18	- 1	-17	:	:	35	31	10	0	16	13	13
	F	42	31	34	35	39	28	30	:	43	34	45	47	53	48	33	30
	IRL	30	42	49	46	30	24	13	:	:	:	:	:	:	31	9	5
	I	-18	-12	-10	- 3	2	4	1	-18	2	-27	- 8	- 4	- 9	- 7	-31	-40
	NL	40	38	28	13	- 2	-17	-21	20	40	35	36	35	20	34	40	31
	UK	29	35	43	43	28	26	25	:	:	:	:	:	:	16	25	33
	EC 8	26	25	29	27	22	12	7	:	31	23	29	22	17	23	16	14
	B	-32	-29	-28	-29	-26	-28	-28	-26	-27	-22	-21	-20	-23	-26	-29	-27
— at present	DK	-11	-11	- 9	- 8	-14	-12	-10	:	:	:	:	:	-12	-11	-17	-10
	D	-21	-19	-15	-15	-19	-25	-28	:	-17	-18	-24	-25	-30	-25	-24	-24
	F	-13	-15	-13	-16	-18	-13	- 9	:	-12	-11	-11	- 9	-14	-14	-14	-17
	IRL	-21	-17	-13	-17	-19	-22	-27	:	:	:	:	:	:	2	-16	-28
	I	- 4	-12	-16	-10	-17	-18	-22	-36	- 5	1	1	1	4	1	4	5
	NL	-15	-14	-14	-19	-23	-27	-22	-17	-17	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13	-15	-12
	UK	-18	-16	- 9	- 6	-14	-19	-18	:	:	:	:	:	:	-18	-14	-17
	EC 8	-15	-15	-12	-12	-17	-20	-20	:	-14	-12	-14	-14	-16	-16	-15	-16
	B	32	34	35	40	38	41	40	46	48	48	46	46	35	24	31	35
	DK	20	9	7	11	15	23	26	:	:	:	:	:	5	-22	1	16
SAVINGS	D	48	44	34	46	43	32	27	:	30	34	12	24	35	23	36	52
	F	2	6	10	8	- 3	- 2	- 5	:	14	24	19	4	- 2	- 2	- 3	6
	IRL	- 2	- 3	14	8	5	- 3	- 9	:	:	:	:	:	:	6	- 3	0
	I	- 6	2	6	4	- 6	- 7	10	41	30	37	1	- 3	- 9	-10	- 8	1
	NL	3	7	13	19	19	27	38	22	20	22	19	23	21	15	15	16
	UK	-24	-17	-10	- 5	6	5	5	:	:	:	:	:	:	-12	-20	-23
	EC 8	13	15	16	21	15	12	12	:	26	32	14	14	13	4	7	16
	B	-11	-12	-14	-14	-20	-21	-25	-12	-12	-12	-11	- 8	-14	-12	-18	-17
	DK	- 7	-12	-11	-12	-20	-19	-18	:	:	:	:	:	-22	-27	-27	-21
	D	44	44	43	46	44	23	- 2	:	36	36	29	27	31	26	43	45
— over next 12 months	F	-30	-29	-27	-29	-32	-32	-32	:	-27	-24	-26	-33	-38	-36	-40	-33
	IRL	-21	-15	- 5	-11	-13	-19	-22	:	:	:	:	:	:	- 5	-19	-22
	I	-48	-41	-35	-34	-32	-30	-22	-26	-28	-27	-42	-39	-48	-37	-51	-50
	NL	- 2	2	6	8	0	- 1	- 3	7	- 1	2	2	2	- 4	0	4	2
	UK	- 8	-15	- 4	- 4	-16	-20	-17	:	:	:	:	:	:	- 4	- 3	- 3
	EC 8	- 2	- 3	1	2	- 4	-11	-16	:	- 1	1	- 5	- 7	- 9	- 8	- 6	- 3
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS	B	12	12	11	12	9	7	6	8	8	10	11	12	11	11	11	11
	DK	12	12	10	9	4	4	4	:	:	:	:	:	6	4	5	6
	D	20	22	23	22	21	16	12	:	22	23	19	17	17	15	17	17
	F	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	:	10	11	12	10	9	9	8	10
	IRL	7	8	11	8	2	- 4	- 1	:	:	:	:	:	:	4	0	0
	I	1	4	7	8	8	8	13	- 1	0	1	- 1	2	0	4	- 2	0
	NL	7	9	14	22	19	18	17	8	7	8	9	10	6	9	9	10
	UK	9	3	8	10	8	9	9	:	:	:	:	:	:	12	14	13
	EC 8	12	12	14	15	12	11	10	:	12	14	12	11	10	11	10	11
	B	12	12	11	12	9	7	6	8	8	10	11	12	11	11	11	11
— index of net acquisition of financial assets	DK	12	12	10	9	4	4	4	:	:	:	:	:	6	4	5	6
	D	20	22	23	22	21	16	12	:	22	23	19	17	17	15	17	17
	F	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	:	10	11	12	10	9	9	8	10
	IRL	7	8	11	8	2	- 4	- 1	:	:	:	:	:	:	4	0	0
	I	1	4	7	8	8	8	13	- 1	0	1	- 1	2	0	4	- 2	0
	NL	7	9	14	22	19	18	17	8	7	8	9	10	6	9	9	10
	UK	9	3	8	10	8	9	9	:	:	:	:	:	:	12	14	13
	EC 8	12	12	14	15	12	11	10	:	12	14	12	11	10	11	10	11
	B	12	12	11	12	9	7	6	8	8	10	11	12	11	11	11	11
	DK	12	12	10	9	4	4	4	:	:	:	:	:	6	4	5	6
	D	20	22	23	22	21	16	12	:	22	23	19	17	17	15	17	17
	F	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	:	10	11	12	10	9	9	8	10
	IRL	7	8	11	8	2	- 4	- 1	:	:	:	:	:	:	4	0	0
	I	1	4	7	8	8	8	13	- 1	0	1	- 1	2	0	4	- 2	0
	NL	7	9	14	22	19	18	17	8	7	8	9	10	6	9	9	10
	UK	9	3	8	10	8	9	9	:	:	:	:	:	:	12	14	13
	EC 8	12	12	14	15	12	11	10	:	12	14	12	11	10	11	10	11

Note to readers

In previous issues of this publication, the results of the EC consumer survey were presented in the form of indices (1975 = 100), calculated from the weighted totals of percentage responses to the various questions. Starting with the present issue, No 1, 1983, the results are to be published as weighted totals of the percentage responses, with no further transformation. This allows the reader to compare the absolute level of average responses as between questions or between countries, as well as developments over time. It also standardizes the range of possible variation, which previously depended upon the base year value and, consequently, could differ considerably across countries for any given question.

The weighting system applied to the answer categories for each question has also been modified, so that in the revised method the possible values for all series range from -100 to +100; the 'don't know' responses are redistributed between the other answer categories according to the latter's percentage distribution. The new weights are set out below.

This number presents historical series of answers to the survey questions (weighted average responses), since the beginning of the consumer surveys in 1972. Subsequent issues will revert to the previous practice of publishing a series of annual averages and the results of the most recent surveys.

The Community's survey of consumer opinion, which was started in 1972, is carried out in all Member States except Luxembourg. In Belgium, Denmark, Greece, France, Ireland and the Netherlands a random sampling of households is undertaken three times a year, in January, May and October (except for France, where the Autumn survey is conducted during the first half of November). In Italy the survey arrangements were as above until 1982; since January 1982 the Italian survey of households has been carried out on a monthly basis. Random surveys of households were also carried out in the United Kingdom until October 1980 and in the Federal Republic of Germany until May 1981, subsequent results being based on a monthly quota sampling of adults. For the three countries (the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) where monthly surveys are undertaken, results published here are centred three-month averages (e.g., October's result is the average of September, October and November).

The questions for which results are published in this Supplement are listed below. The numbers in parentheses are the weights given to each percentage response to obtain the average answer to each question.

- Financial situation of your household now compared to 12 months ago?
 - Financial situation of your household, prospects over the next 12 months?
 - General economic situation in the country now compared to 12 months ago?
 - General economic situation in the country, prospects over the next 12 months?
- For the above four questions the possible responses are: a lot better (+1), a little better (+ ½), the same (0), a little worse (- ½), a lot worse (-1), don't know.
- Price levels now compared to 12 months ago? Much higher (+1), moderately higher (+ ½), a little higher (0), about the same (- ½), lower (-1), don't know.
 - Price trends over the next 12 months? More rapid increase (+1), same increase (+ ½), slower increase (0), stability (- ½), fall slightly (-1), don't know.
 - Unemployment level in the country over the next 12 months? Increase sharply (+1), increase slightly (+ ½), remain the same (0), fall slightly (- ½), fall sharply (-1), don't know.
 - Major purchases (furniture, washing machine, TV, etc.) at present? Yes, right time (+1), neither right nor wrong time (0), wrong time, should postpone (-1), don't know.
 - Major purchases next 12 months compared to last 12 months? Much more (+1), a little more (+ ½), the same (0), a little less (- ½), much less (-1), don't know.
 - Savings at present, a reasonable time to save?
 - Savings by you or your household over the next 12 months?
- For the above two questions the possible answers are: yes, certainly (+1), Yes, perhaps (+ ½), probably not (- ½), certainly not (-1), don't know.
- Financial situation of households at present — financial asset accumulation? Borrowing (-1), drawing on savings (- ½), just making ends meet (0), saving a little (+ ½), saving a substantial amount (+1), don't know.
- The consumer confidence index is an arithmetic average of the answers to the four questions on the financial situation of households and general economic situation (past and future) together with that on the advisability of making major purchases.

1975		1976			1977			1978			1979			1980			1981			1982			1983
May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.
-11	-16	-8	-3	-5	-10	-3	-12	-8	-8	-10	-8	-7	-15	-18	-18	-24	-28	-25	-27	-27	-26	-28	-31
-4	5	11	4	-7	-3	-4	-4	-1	-1	0	5	0	-12	-17	-22	-18	-17	-17	-16	-8	-11	-15	-11
-1	-5	2	7	7	2	0	2	1	5	10	9	9	1	-5	-5	-6	-17	-20	-27	-28	-22	-29	-26
-2	1	3	5	-2	-1	-5	0	2	3	-2	-4	-5	-6	-9	-10	-10	-12	-7	-7	-3	-3	-10	-9
-32	-14	-26	-25	-24	-18	-16	6	12	7	3	-8	-9	-12	-17	-23	-27	-26	-21	-38	-31	-31	-39	-36
-27	-30	-31	-31	-34	-29	-26	-21	-23	-18	-12	-15	-16	-21	-25	-18	-22	-21	-21	-23	-16	-15	-25	-27
-8	-14	-6	-4	-5	0	1	-6	5	-1	-8	-6	-7	-11	-18	-25	-31	-30	-32	-30	-32	-28	-37	-34
-33	-22	-13	-8	-25	-14	-16	7	14	9	2	-9	8	-10	-16	-16	-22	-22	-19	-21	-22	-7	-7	-8
-11	-11	-6	-3	-8	-7	-8	-2	0	1	0	-2	0	-7	-13	-12	-15	-18	-18	-21	-19	-14	-19	-19
-9	-12	-10	-10	-12	-13	-11	-13	-10	-13	-11	-12	-8	-13	-14	-14	-16	-18	-18	-20	-22	-24	-28	-29
1	6	8	9	2	3	5	1	3	2	2	2	2	-1	-7	-13	-12	-11	-12	-12	-8	-6	-6	-5
-3	-9	-6	-4	-1	-2	-4	-1	-2	0	3	3	3	-1	-4	-3	-5	-12	-17	-18	-18	-15	-21	-20
-4	-2	-2	-1	-5	-3	-5	-4	-2	-2	-2	-4	-4	-5	-7	-7	-7	-8	-7	-8	-5	-5	-11	-8
-42	-22	-27	-38	-35	-34	-35	-14	-8	-10	-9	-19	-23	-21	-27	-32	-38	-34	-32	-47	-41	-40	-41	-37
-22	-23	-22	-25	-27	-23	-20	-17	-17	-14	-11	-13	-12	-15	-16	-12	-14	-13	-15	-15	-9	-12	-17	-17
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-27	-29	-27	-29	-34	-35	-43	-25	-12	-10	-8	-12	-8	-12	-16	-26	-31	-26	-32	-32	-34	-26	-21	-18
-11	-12	-10	-11	-12	-11	-13	-8	-5	-4	-3	-4	-3	-6	-9	-11	-13	-14	-17	-18	-16	-15	-18	-16
1	-3	-1	1	-1	-4	0	-4	-2	-4	-2	-2	-2	-5	-6	-4	-7	-12	-9	-7	-10	-12	-14	-17
6	10	11	12	3	5	8	5	7	6	6	5	3	-1	-7	-10	-6	-5	-5	-2	-1	-2	-7	-5
0	-7	-2	2	2	1	-1	1	0	2	4	4	3	0	-4	-4	-2	-12	-11	-14	-14	-10	-17	-16
5	5	7	7	2	4	2	5	7	4	3	2	0	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	2	0	3	2	-4	1
28	-12	-23	-19	-25	-19	-18	3	8	-1	-4	-17	-11	-11	-16	-19	-21	-24	-14	-32	-24	-21	-25	-24
-6	-12	-13	-10	-17	-12	-12	-10	-9	-5	-3	-5	-7	-10	-12	-9	-8	-7	-8	-8	-2	-5	-11	-10
-5	-9	-7	-8	-4	-1	2	-1	3	1	-1	2	2	0	-6	-7	-15	-13	-13	-12	-13	-9	-20	-21
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-58	-63	-57	-46	-44	-51	-39	-51	-49	-44	-47	-44	-41	-48	-56	-55	-63	-70	-65	-73	-70	-70	-65	-69
-35	-26	-24	-33	-49	-42	-47	-41	-34	-34	-26	-18	-30	-55	-57	-62	-48	-45	-47	-49	-33	-42	-51	-34
-27	-36	-17	1	5	-9	-12	-11	-15	-7	8	5	9	-4	-17	-17	-20	-38	-48	-51	-54	-44	-55	-54
-24	-20	-18	-17	-22	-21	-29	-20	-17	-14	-21	-24	-27	-31	-36	-41	-39	-42	-36	-34	-26	-23	-37	-33
-72	-45	-59	-61	-59	-55	-47	-13	1	-5	-9	-27	-38	-38	-49	-53	-65	-65	-62	-73	-73	-68	-82	-75
-58	-67	-69	-79	-77	-71	-65	-46	-54	-47	-33	-37	-43	-50	-60	-51	-59	-58	-62	-60	-53	-40	-61	-62
-48	-59	-47	-40	-38	-28	-24	-39	-16	-23	-32	-26	-29	-33	-45	-57	-64	-65	-67	-60	-64	-58	-69	-66
-74	-65	-53	-45	-72	-58	-53	-4	8	1	-8	-36	-22	-42	-51	-51	-63	-65	-59	-62	-60	-28	-31	-37
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-13	-28	-32	-24	-30	-26	-24	-19	-21	-14	-7	-11	-18	-29	-36	-24	-31	-28	-32	-29	-21	-15	-35	-30
-22	-38	-13	-11	-18	-11	-7	-23	-4	-16	-27	-22	-24	-32	-49	-43	-52	-48	-41	-36	-41	-36	-51	-42
-39	-21	-2	9	-27	0	-6	28	25	5	-15	-29	8	-28	-32	-22	-19	-28	-18	-22	-23	-1	-5	-14
-14	-17	-8	-2	-15	-12	-14	-7	-5	-8	-11	-14	-10	-23	-34	-28	-29	-35	-27	-29	-26	-18	-30	-27
95	94	93	92	91	89	87	79	65	55	56	48	52	66	67	62	66	67	64	77	73	78	78	78
62	43	40	50	60	53	59	54	50	51	41	37	34	46	45	54	51	41	54	58	50	47	47	34
36	47	35	42	32	31	32	21	20	18	10	12	22	41	49	48	36	46	56	54	51	43	43	37
74	70	73	74	81	73	79	66	53	63	64	63	70	76	80	80	77	78	75	79	73	70	42	47
95	69	84	90	86	88	90	65	46	60	65	78	79	82	83	88	84	85	87	89	88	88	86	77
80	79	78	87	86	86	82	73	70	67	64	65	71	79	82	79	79	80	81	77	75	66	75	74
85	88	84	90	87	83	87	65	55	44	41	34	43	50	55	68	64	64	71	69	67	65	58	44
69	58	54	52	67	71	72	50	40	34	30	44	43	56	63	64	49	41	42	42	42	30	22	18
63	63	59	63	64	62	64	51	43	43	39	41	47	59	65	65	58	60	63	63	59	53	46	43
20	31	24	34	31	36	24	32	23	15	26	27	30	44	47	37	42	40	34	46	39	47	48	45
24	13	22	26	33	34	43	32	28	29	23	21	35	30	40	42	32	23	36	33	33	35	24	16
25	37	29	35	35	38	38	32	37	33	30	41	44	46	58	52	44	53	50	48	48	39	41	37
21	31	33	39	26	24	36	26	27	56	41	42	51	46	54	51	47	45	38	34	31	39	55	34
77	51	52	43	60	55	52	21	17	35	55	58	59	56	61	57	51	55	44	56	50	46	43	43
26	42	49	41	53	47	47	45	44	42	46	49	57	61	64	60	58	59	59	57	55	49	62	57
49	58	48	51	48	43	48	39	36	32	39	40	45	58	68	55	58	53	54	50	52	49	50	39
52	36	27	27	60	50	36	6	7	34	21	38	23	40	61	50	18	24	33	38	39	31	16	25
30	36	33	36	41	38	39	29	30	39	34	41	44	47	58	52	43	45	44	44	42	40	43	36
49	56	30	14	35	41	12	48	47	31	49	44	37	46	52	52	67	69	63	68	64	56	62	68
-28	-6	-8	-7	15	22	29	36	30	30	26	22	9	35	38	34	45	44	32	37	25	29	33	41
-6	-2	-9	-12	-15	5	12	7	20	15	-5	4	2	2	21	20	19	43	36	50	48	28	54	52
40	34	19	7	29	27	33	20	16	28	45	48	44	41	44	45	52	59	38	32	30	23	37	30
31	29	47	33	35	21	20	-4	-1	9	10	14	12	10	20	34	47	54	36	51	56	50	62	65
47	55	62	45	45	46	44	43	49	40	37	37	41	46	47	42	64	50	50	55	55	52	62	59
49	69	48	24	45	33	43	58	24	47	53	37	34	33	52	53	72	78	64	73	75	61	81	80
64	39	37	8	34	31	18	16	10	21	30	33	13	45	60	59	55	59	48	44	41	21	41	48
30	28	21	7	19	24																		

TABLE: Consumer opinion on economic and financial conditions¹

		1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1972		1973			1974			
									May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX ²	B	- 5	- 8	- 8	-10	-20	-27	-27	2	0	2	6	7	-10	- 5	-16	-18
	DK	2	- 3	- 1	- 2	-19	-17	-12	:	:	:	:	:	-13	-12	-16	-15
	D	5	1	5	6	- 5	-12	-26	:	7	9	- 3	- 9	-22	-11	-12	-13
	F	2	- 2	1	- 5	-10	- 9	- 5	:	11	13	14	6	- 1	1	- 9	- 3
	IRL	-25	-10	8	-10	-22	-28	-34	:	:	:	:	:	:	-17	-38	-41
	I	-32	-25	-18	-17	-22	-22	-18	- 6	- 7	-14	-16	-13	-29	-25	-39	-38
	NL	- 5	- 2	- 1	- 8	-25	-31	-32	-12	- 3	- 2	0	6	-19	- 2	- 5	-15
	UK	-15	- 8	8	- 4	-18	-21	-12	:	:	:	:	:	-18	-18	-17	-20
	EC 8	- 6	- 6	0	- 3	-13	-19	-17	:	4	5	0	- 4	-16	-11	-17	-16
FINANCIAL SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLDS	B	-11	-12	-11	-11	-15	-19	-25	1	- 1	1	0	0	- 4	- 7	-13	-12
	DK	7	3	2	1	-10	-12	- 7	:	:	:	:	:	0	- 1	- 5	- 3
	D	- 4	- 2	1	2	- 4	-16	-18	:	3	4	- 7	-10	-15	-10	- 6	-10
	F	- 3	- 4	- 2	- 4	- 7	- 8	- 7	:	2	4	4	0	- 3	- 5	- 8	- 5
	IRL	-34	-28	- 9	-21	-32	-38	-41	:	:	:	:	:	:	-36	-51	-52
	I	-25	-20	-14	-13	-14	-14	-13	- 5	- 8	- 9	-13	-12	-18	-16	-29	-26
	NL	- 3	0	4	1	- 9	-18	-20	3	2	4	3	6	- 3	0	1	- 2
	UK	-30	-34	-10	-11	-24	-30	-27	:	:	:	:	:	:	-29	-17	-21
	EC	-11	-11	- 4	- 5	-11	-17	-16	:	0	1	- 4	- 6	-10	-13	-12	-13
— over last 12 months	B	0	- 3	- 3	- 3	- 6	- 9	-12	7	3	3	4	4	- 3	- 2	- 6	- 6
	DK	9	6	6	3	- 8	- 4	- 2	:	:	:	:	:	- 2	- 1	1	5
	D	1	0	2	2	- 3	-12	-14	:	5	5	- 6	- 5	-13	- 7	- 6	- 5
	F	5	4	4	0	- 2	0	0	:	9	11	11	6	- 4	3	- 3	4
	IRL	-22	-11	1	-13	-19	-24	-23	:	:	:	:	:	:	-14	-31	-29
	I	-13	-11	- 6	- 7	-10	- 8	- 6	7	2	1	- 2	- 1	-12	- 8	-17	-14
	NL	- 7	0	1	1	- 9	-13	-14	- 1	- 2	0	0	2	-12	- 1	- 5	- 7
	UK	-11	- 7	3	- 1	-13	-15	- 9	:	:	:	:	:	:	- 8	-11	-15
	EC 8	- 3	- 2	2	0	- 6	- 9	- 8	:	5	5	1	0	- 9	- 4	- 8	- 6
— over next 12 months	B	0	- 3	- 3	- 3	- 6	- 9	-12	7	3	3	4	4	- 3	- 2	- 6	- 6
	DK	9	6	6	3	- 8	- 4	- 2	:	:	:	:	:	- 2	- 1	1	5
	D	1	0	2	2	- 3	-12	-14	:	5	5	- 6	- 5	-13	- 7	- 6	- 5
	F	5	4	4	0	- 2	0	0	:	9	11	11	6	- 4	3	- 3	4
	IRL	-22	-11	1	-13	-19	-24	-23	:	:	:	:	:	:	-14	-31	-29
	I	-13	-11	- 6	- 7	-10	- 8	- 6	7	2	1	- 2	- 1	-12	- 8	-17	-14
	NL	- 7	0	1	1	- 9	-13	-14	- 1	- 2	0	0	2	-12	- 1	- 5	- 7
	UK	-11	- 7	3	- 1	-13	-15	- 9	:	:	:	:	:	:	- 8	-11	-15
	EC 8	- 3	- 2	2	0	- 6	- 9	- 8	:	5	5	1	0	- 9	- 4	- 8	- 6
GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION	B	-49	-47	-47	-44	-58	-69	-68	-18	-23	-22	-16	-12	-45	-40	-55	-64
	DK	-35	-43	-31	-34	-56	-47	-42	:	:	:	:	:	-51	-61	-62	-65
	D	- 4	-11	- 5	3	-18	-46	-51	:	- 8	0	-20	-24	-47	-37	-39	-48
	F	-19	-23	-18	-27	-39	-37	-28	:	- 1	5	7	- 8	-14	-24	-32	-27
	IRL	-60	-38	- 4	-35	-56	-66	-74	:	:	:	:	:	:	-43	-74	-83
	I	-75	-61	-45	-43	-57	-60	-51	-27	-28	-29	-46	-43	-68	-67	-80	-78
	NL	-42	-31	-23	-30	-55	-64	-64	-48	-33	-29	-24	- 8	-56	-26	-32	-58
	UK	-56	-38	0	-33	-55	-62	-40	:	:	:	:	:	:	-54	-59	-67
	EC 8	-32	-29	-16	-22	-41	-51	-44	:	-12	- 7	-17	-22	-40	-42	-49	-52
— over last 12 months	B	-15	-25	-28	-29	-45	-51	-43	-10	-20	-20	-16	-15	-50	-36	-45	-44
	DK	-14	-26	-21	-24	-42	-29	-23	:	:	:	:	:	-33	-37	-20	- 5
	D	8	- 5	- 1	1	-19	-33	-32	:	1	4	-13	-15	-36	-18	-23	-14
	F	-15	-18	-15	-29	-40	-27	-23	:	2	9	5	-15	-39	-16	-36	-19
	IRL	-38	-13	2	-26	-35	-38	-42	:	:	:	:	:	:	-23	-43	-45
	I	-29	-23	-14	-19	-30	-30	-24	11	- 3	- 4	-13	- 8	-37	-28	-39	-33
	NL	-14	-15	-16	-26	-48	-42	-42	-34	-24	-21	-15	- 7	-43	-17	-28	-36
	UK	- 7	6	5	-16	-24	-23	-10	:	:	:	:	:	:	-14	-25	-32
	EC 8	- 8	-11	- 8	-16	-30	-30	-25	:	- 2	1	- 8	-13	-36	-19	-30	-23
— over next 12 months	B	92	85	59	55	65	69	77	:	:	:	:	89	93	96	96	96
	DK	50	55	47	39	50	51	48	:	:	:	:	:	71	75	76	67
	D	36	28	16	25	44	52	46	:	:	:	:	66	60	70	56	49
	F	76	73	60	70	79	77	62	:	:	:	:	85	86	93	90	83
	IRL	87	81	57	80	85	87	87	:	:	:	:	:	:	91	95	95
	I	84	80	67	72	80	79	72	:	:	:	:	82	86	90	92	89
	NL	87	78	47	43	62	68	63	:	:	:	:	81	91	92	91	91
	UK	58	64	35	48	59	41	31	:	:	:	:	:	:	65	62	65
	EC 8	62	59	42	49	63	62	53	:	:	:	:	77	73	80	75	71
— over last 12 months	B	30	30	22	33	42	40	45	:	:	:	:	0	0	53	41	37
	DK	27	36	27	29	38	31	31	:	:	:	:	:	48	52	42	15
	D	33	36	33	44	51	50	43	:	:	:	:	26	56	44	42	33
	F	33	29	41	46	50	39	42	:	:	:	:	49	66	36	32	22
	IRL	51	43	36	58	56	52	46	:	:	:	:	:	:	58	68	71
	I	48	47	44	56	60	58	56	:	:	:	:	34	59	53	48	38
	NL	49	43	36	48	61	52	50	:	:	:	:	31	67	53	58	53
	UK	38	31	21	34	43	31	29	:	:	:	:	:	:	36	49	51
	EC 8	37	35	34	44	51	44	42	:	:	:	:	37	58	43	43	35
UNEMPLOYMENT	B	26	34	42	42	57	67	60	47	46	46	36	34	79	41	68	74
	DK	0	29	29	22	39	37	29	:	:	:	:	:	37	36	15	-19
	D	-12	8	10	3	20	43	43	:	3	1	7	23	47	31	33	14
	F	18	27	30	44	47	43	30	:	14	9	14	21	48	28	60	43
	IRL	38	12	6	12	34	47	56	:	:	:	:	:	:	- 1	48	49
	I	51	45	42	41	51	52	56	30	32	28	29	21	53	34	72	65
	NL	39	45	42	35	59	72	72	55	57	44	31	28	66	43	70	67
	UK	26	22	20	30	58	50	34	:	:	:	:	:	:	10	42	58
	EC 8	16	24	25	27	43	48	42	:	18	14	17	23	48	28	50	41

¹ The survey questions are set out on the last page. The sums of the replies for each Member State are weighted in the Community total with the value of consumers' expenditure. For the earlier surveys, the index represents the arithmetic average of results for five questions, namely the two on the financial situation of the household, the two on the general economic situation, and that concerning major source: European Community consumer survey.

1975		1976			1977			1978			1979			1980			1981			1982			1983
May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.	May	Oct.	Jan.
40	29	41	52	51	48	47	43	50	45	43	42	44	27	33	24	13	15	16	14	12	18	10	5
6	41	61	44	31	40	46	43	45	44	35	44	49	34	28	24	12	6	11	13	18	20	9	3
24	32	30	24	25	26	23	24	30	33	30	31	25	18	22	15	16	11	3	-18	-19	-17	-16	-10
29	37	42	47	37	32	31	31	28	40	33	30	36	40	40	43	35	33	23	27	28	28	34	23
24	31	24	26	40	42	42	43	46	52	48	50	50	38	40	26	23	34	29	10	27	11	1	1
-36	-23	-18	-15	-19	-14	-8	-14	-12	-12	-7	-8	0	0	-3	4	4	3	10	-1	7	-1	-3	-15
34	38	39	41	40	42	35	37	38	30	17	13	14	11	13	-8	-10	-10	-19	-23	-22	-17	-23	-18
-4	17	27	29	31	38	36	32	43	43	44	39	53	39	35	29	20	26	27	24	22	26	28	33
12	23	27	27	25	26	25	24	28	31	28	27	29	24	25	22	18	17	13	5	6	6	8	6
-26	-30	:	:	-32	:	:	-29	:	:	-28	:	:	-29	:	:	-26	-29	-26	-30	-29	-26	-28	-29
-8	-8	-9	-10	-13	-11	-10	-11	-11	-9	-8	-7	-7	-9	-11	-14	-15	-12	-12	-12	-10	-9	-12	-13
-21	-20	-24	-21	-18	-20	-20	-18	-17	-13	-14	-13	-15	-15	-17	-18	-21	-24	-27	-25	-26	-27	-32	-33
-15	-11	-10	-13	-15	-15	-17	-15	-12	-14	-12	-15	-17	-17	-17	-19	-19	-11	-18	-10	-9	-9	-8	-10
-21	-15	-20	:	-22	:	:	-17	:	-10	-15	-20	-15	-15	-19	-19	-18	-22	-19	-24	-27	-26	-27	-32
7	8	:	:	-4	:	:	-12	:	:	-16	:	:	-10	-18	-18	-14	-21	-18	-16	-24	-21	-21	-22
-12	-19	-14	-13	-18	-15	-14	-13	-10	-11	-21	-17	-19	-23	-20	-22	-27	-26	-27	-27	-27	-24	-29	-28
-22	-17	-19	-16	-18	-14	-19	-14	-8	-9	-10	-7	-4	-7	-10	-13	-19	-20	-18	-19	-22	-17	-16	-19
-15	-13	-15	-13	-16	-13	-15	-16	-11	-10	-14	-10	-11	-15	-15	-17	-20	-20	-21	-19	-21	-19	-20	-22
39	31	37	30	29	35	35	33	34	35	36	42	41	35	35	38	41	44	45	33	40	40	41	49
13	28	21	24	16	13	10	5	7	7	7	13	7	12	10	13	22	28	23	20	26	21	30	36
59	51	50	41	52	50	43	40	27	34	43	46	48	44	46	43	39	39	37	18	27	29	24	27
8	8	5	4	-2	5	4	9	13	10	8	9	11	5	1	-8	-2	-1	-1	-6	-3	-7	-6	-1
-4	1	6	-8	-3	-10	-2	2	12	15	15	9	8	7	11	5	0	1	0	-10	-12	-13	-2	9
5	1	-5	-8	-4	2	-2	6	5	8	6	6	7	-1	-1	-8	-9	-3	-8	-10	2	15	12	19
8	0	6	1	1	6	5	9	12	13	14	17	20	21	18	17	22	22	25	35	35	41	:	37
-26	-20	-22	-23	-26	-19	-20	-12	-4	-12	-13	-12	-7	6	12	2	2	6	3	6	5	9	2	4
19	17	15	11	13	16	13	16	14	15	17	20	22	20	18	13	14	16	14	8	12	15	10	16
-13	-11	-12	-14	-7	-15	-9	-13	-13	-19	-10	-13	-11	-17	-19	-17	-24	-24	-24	-16	-24	-24	-26	-23
-18	-4	-5	-3	-13	-12	-9	-14	-10	-12	-13	-11	-8	-17	-15	-24	-21	-14	-18	-24	-17	-17	-20	-12
51	49	48	39	46	48	44	41	42	43	45	50	44	45	46	42	44	39	32	-1	-1	3	-6	-2
-32	-31	-28	-30	-33	-28	-30	-30	-24	-28	-29	-28	-28	-30	-31	-32	-34	-31	-31	-32	-29	-31	-35	-30
-17	-8	-23	-23	-16	-13	-20	-11	-6	-6	-3	-10	-13	-11	-8	-17	-14	-17	-14	-26	-24	-19	-24	-18
-46	-47	-48	-48	-46	-43	-43	-38	-37	-34	-32	-35	-31	-35	-34	-32	-31	-26	-31	-32	-15	-23	-28	-27
3	-2	3	-7	-2	4	0	1	6	7	4	10	7	7	3	-1	-1	1	-2	-1	-4	-1	-2	-6
-5	-6	-7	-6	-12	-12	-22	-10	-1	-4	-8	-6	2	-7	-8	-10	-30	-19	-20	-21	-22	-15	-14	-16
0	-1	0	-4	-3	-1	-5	-3	2	1	1	4	3	1	-2	-4	-7	-5	-8	-18	-16	-15	-18	-16
13	11	13	12	12	11	13	11	12	10	12	13	14	9	9	9	8	7	7	7	7	7	4	5
8	11	12	13	12	11	13	11	12	10	10	8	10	8	6	3	5	4	6	3	4	5	5	7
21	19	20	17	22	22	21	22	23	23	24	21	24	21	22	20	21	21	15	12	12	13	10	10
10	10	10	10	9	10	10	9	11	10	10	10	10	9	9	8	7	8	8	7	9	9	6	8
4	8	6	7	7	8	7	10	11	11	11	8	8	9	9	4	-5	-3	-7	-3	0	-2	-3	-3
2	1	2	1	1	2	3	6	5	9	8	7	10	8	7	9	9	9	8	8	16	12	10	9
9	9	10	5	8	8	9	11	10	12	21	23	22	21	21	18	18	20	17	18	16	17	18	16
12	11	11	11	5	4	1	5	6	10	9	7	13	11	9	9	7	11	8	8	6	11	11	10
13	12	12	11	11	12	11	12	13	14	15	14	16	14	13	12	12	13	10	9	10	11	9	9

Note to readers (continued)

The surveys are undertaken by;

- B — Belgium: INS (Institut National de la Statistique)
 DK — Denmark: Danmarks Statistik
 D — Federal Republic of Germany: GfK (Gesellschaft für Konsum- Markt- und Absatzforschung)
 GR — Greece: National Statistical Service of Greece

- F — France: INSEE (Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques)
 IRL — Ireland: the Agricultural Institute
 I — Italy: ISCO (Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio della Congiuntura)
 NL — Netherlands: CBS (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek)
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